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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 3-5, 7-10 and 13-15 as follows.

1. (Original) A method of communicating, the method comprising:

effecting communication between first and second radio transceivers via a telecommunications network over a first channel;

determining the distance between the first and second radio transceivers;

determining whether the distance between the two transceivers meets a predetermined threshold; and

in response to a determination that the threshold is met, effecting direct mode communication between the first and second radio transceivers over a second channel.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the second channel has a greater bandwidth than the first channel.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, further comprising, prior to the effecting direct mode communication step, estimating the quality of the second channel.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which the determining steps are carried out at the first radio transceiver.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which the distance determination step includes determining the locations of the first and second radio transceivers.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 5, in which the location determination involves a satellite-based position system.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 5, in which the location determination involves triangulating from plural fixed radio transceivers, preferably forming part of the telecommunications network.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which the first and second channels are of different channel types.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which the direct mode communication step is effected only if a bandwidth or other service demand exceeds the capability of the first channel.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which the threshold is dependent on the sum of the radio coverage of the first and second radio transceivers.

11. (Original) A radio transceiver, comprising:

a communicator for communicating with a remote radio transceiver via a telecommunications network over a first channel;

a determiner for determining the distance between the transceiver and the remote transceiver, and for determining whether the distance meets a predetermined threshold; and

a channel charger, responsible to a determination that the threshold is met, for effecting direct mode communication between the transceiver and the remote transceiver over a second channel.

12. (Original) A radio transceiver as claimed in claim 11, in which the second channel has a greater bandwidth than the first channel.

13. (Currently Amended) A radio transceiver as claimed in claim 11 ~~or claim 12~~, further comprising an estimator arranged to estimate the quality of the second channel.

14. (Currently Amended) A radio transceiver as claimed in ~~any of claims~~ claim 11 to 13, including a satellite positioning receiver, arranged to calculate the location of the transceiver.

15. (Currently Amended) A radio transceiver as claimed in ~~any of claims~~ claim 11 to 14, in which the first and second channels are of different types.

16. (Original) A system for effecting communication between first and second radio transceivers, comprising:

a communicator for effecting communication between the first and second radio transceivers over a first channel;

a determiner for determining the distance between the transceivers, and for determining if the distance meets a predetermined threshold; and

a channel charger responsive to a determination that the threshold is met, for effecting direct mode communication between the transceivers over a second channel.